

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4529

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2971

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, VS, JO

SUBJECT: GOJ REQUEST FOR US ADVICE REGARDING INTERNATIONAL
LAW RELATING TO VIETNAMESE EMBASSY ASSETS

1. SECRETARY GENERAL AND CHIEF OF PROTOCOL GOJ
FONMIN HAVE ASKED IF USG CAN GIVE GOJ ANY ADVICE
REGARDING PROCEDURES GOJ SHOULD FOLLOW UNDER
INTERNATIONAL LAW, WITH RESPECT TO HANDLING OF ASSETS AND
PROPERTY OF FORMER REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM EMBASSY IN AMMAN.

2. SECGEN SAID THAT GOJ WANTS TO DEAL FAIRLY WITH
EMBASSY STAFF BUT ALSO WISHES TO ACT PROPERLY WITH
RESPECT TO INTERNATIONAL LAW, NOW THAT RVN GOVERNMENT
HAS FALLEN. GOJ INTEREST AROSE BECAUSE RVN AMBASSADOR
HAS BEEN SELLING ASSETS AND FURNITURE OF EMBASSY.

3. SECGEN'S UNDERSTANDING IS THAT HOST GOVERNMENT IS
RESPONSIBLE FOR PROTECTING INTEGRITY OF EMBASSY ASSETS
EVEN THOUGH GOJ HAS NOT YET RECOGNIZED SUCCESSOR REGIME
IN SOUTH VIETNAM. ACCORDINGLY, GOJ HAS ASKED
RVN AMBASSADOR TO PROVIDE FONMIN AN INVENTORY
OF ASSETS AND PROPERTY BELONGING TO EMBASSY AND
TO CEASE ANY FURTHER SALE OF EMBASSY ASSETS.

4. CHARGE INDICATED HE WOULD INFORM DEPARTMENT OF
ABOVE REQUEST FOR ADVICE AND HE HOPED DEPARTMENT
COULD AT LEAST PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING OUR OWN
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HANDLING OF RVN EMBASSY ASSETS IN U.S., AS A POSSIBLE

INFORMAL GUIDE FOR GOJ'S BACKGROUND.

5. COMMENT: FONMIN CLEARLY IS IN A QUANDRY AS TO
PROPER COURSE TO FOLLOW, WHICH WILL PERMIT THEM TO
DEAL FAIRLY WITH RVN EMBASSY PERSONNEL YET NOT LEAVE
THEMSELVES OPEN TO ATTACK BY PRG FOR IMPROPER HANDLING
OF VIETNAMESE ASSETS. IN VIEW OF CLOSE US-GOJ RELATIONS
AND FACT THEY ARE SEEKING OUR ADVICE ON ISSUE OF
INTERNATIONAL LAW GOJ FONMIN NOT STAFFED TO HANDLE,
WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT CAN FURNISH.
PLEASE ADVISE.
SUDDARTH

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